

Harvest Collection 2020

*The collection today is for The Bishop's Harvest Appeal,
in conjunction with Tear Fund: Creating a Buzz in Nepal
All produce will be given to DENS.*

DENS (Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter) aims to be the first port of call for people in Dacorum who are facing homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion; to support and empower them to take the next positive step in their lives.

Over the last 16 years they have helped individuals rebuild their lives by ensuring access to temporary and short-term accommodation, access to emergency food and provisions for families and individuals. They provide accommodation options to support people to move on and sustain their own tenancy and they provide advice and training; empowering people to develop their skills and build confidence.

Creating a Buzz in Nepal aims to help as many Nepalese people as possible who are still rebuilding their lives following the devastation and loss inflicted on the country in April 2015 when almost 22,000 people were injured and 9,000 people died in two huge earthquakes. Much of the infrastructure collapsed, livelihoods lost, and families made homeless. Creating a Buzz involves training people to become beekeepers so as to produce their own honey, both for themselves and to sell. It will stimulate both the economy and help pollinate creation – a thoroughly worthy appeal of our support.



<https://www.dens.org.uk/>



<https://www.tearfund.org>

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the
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HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 4 October 2020

10.00am

President and Preacher:
The Right Reverend Dr Michael Beasley
Bishop of Hertford

Welcome to St John's for worship today.

Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, or you are joining us virtually, you are most welcome!

If you are joining us virtually you might like to light a candle before the Service and place it on a table to remind you of the light of the risen Christ shining among us.

The posture directions in this Order of Service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer.

We greatly appreciate your ongoing support for the mission and ministry of this Parish. If your financial offering is physical please place it in the plate on your way into church - Giftaiding where possible. If you give via Direct Debit or the Parish Giving Scheme - thank you.

Harvest Gifts

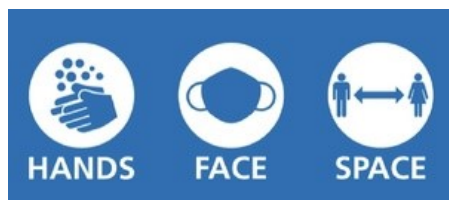
Today we give thanks to God for the blessings he gives us in creation and especially for the harvest by which we are fed and sustained. During these days of pandemic many of us have had to alter the way in which we shop and our expectations as to what might be available. We give thanks for all who have worked throughout lockdown and fed the nation: the farmers and fisherman; the delivery drivers, supermarket and shop assistants; foodbanks and volunteers.

In response and gratitude we offer our gifts for the work of DENS (our local foodbank) and/or a financial contribution towards the Bishop's Harvest Appeal: Creating a Buzz in Nepal. Sadly, this year we cannot bring our present our gifts during the Service so...

- please place your GIFTS in/near the Children's Room on arrival/exit.
- please place your financial gift in a completed Giftaid envelope labelled "HARVEST"
- If you would like to donate online please do so either via our website or the respective charities: www.dens.org.uk or www.tearfund.org

Covid Secure measures

We are doing everything we can to keep you safe during these times. Please follow the direction of our sidespeople, use sanitiser of entry and exit, wear a face covering, and observe social distancing.



The Bishop gives

The Blessing

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and for ever. Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All remain seated for

Closing Hymn: Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours to-day.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Nun danket 205 AMNS

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Voluntary

All remain standing until the clergy have departed.

Please wait until invited to leave so as to do so in a socially distanced manner.

The Administration of Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. During this pandemic Holy Communion is only administered in one kind - the Body of Christ. Please follow the directions of the sidespeople to enable everyone to move around the church safely. Please keep your face covering on whilst away from your seat, remove it when back in your place to consume the Blessed Sacrament, and then reapply it.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the of the Sacrament, please indicate this by bringing this booklet with you. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.

The Anthem: For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.	For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
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For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.	For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
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John Rutter (b 1945)

All kneel or remain seated to say

The Prayer after Communion

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Those who have recently be baptised come to the front to receive their certificate and for

The Welcome of those newly baptised

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
N (and N), by the one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Please stand at the entrance of the clergy.

The Bishop gives

The Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

Hymn: We plough the fields

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain. | 2 He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread. <i>Refrain:</i> |
|---|--|

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

- | |
|---|
| 3 We thank thee, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
No gifts have we to offer,
for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts. <i>Refrain:</i> |
|---|

Wir pflügen 290 AMNS

Prayers of Penitence:

We come to God with thankful hearts for all his gifts in creation,
and yet in sorrow for the way misuse his creation.
Let us now acknowledge before him our sins and ask for his forgiveness.

For the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For forgetting that all gifts in creation come from you.
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For not caring enough for the world you have made

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For storing up goods for ourselves and ignoring the cry of the hungry.

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you

by temptations in the world around us;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us

The Bishop pronounces

Absolution:

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

All remain standing as the special Prayer of the Day is said.

The Collect

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

All sit or kneel for

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Giving of Communion

The Bishop holds up the Blessed Sacrament and says:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The body of Christ.

Amen.

As the Clergy receive Communion, a recording is played of our choir singing

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand for

Preparation of the Table

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

All remain standing as the Bishop leads

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

So with your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise,
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

All sit for

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Philippians 3: 4b-14

Thanks be to God.

All stand for

The Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed

him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Matthew 21: 33–end

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon or Talk

All stand to affirm our faith in the Living God in the words of

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
Who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in all the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

All sit or kneel for

The Prayers of Intercession

A lighted Candle may be placed on the Altar after each part of the Prayers to symbolise our offering or request before God. This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy or Lord, hear us

Hear our prayer

Lord, graciously hear us

And at the end:

Merciful Father:

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All stand. The Bishop introduces

The Peace

God has called us to live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Please ‘wave’ a sign of peace to your neighbours.

The Notices

Please sit for the Parish Notices, Banns of Marriage, and other announcements.

The following prayer may be used.

The Froggy Prayer

Thank you God for little birds and big green frogs that JUMP!

For bees, and trees, and deep blue seas,

and elephants that trump, and JUMP!

For sunny days, and showers, for gladness and for fun,

For loving friends and families, You gave us everyone. Amen and JUMP!

Offertory Hymn: Lord, for the years

During which the Gifts of Bread and Wine are placed on the Altar.

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people’s praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth, and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord of the years 715 AM